THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) As a result of sudden spurt in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn leading to the stoppage of production of a large number Of powerloom/handloom units in various regions of the country, the Government of India, on 18-1-94, stopped the export of the unutilised export quota of cotton. The Government' again reviewed the situation in the light of the extreme hardship to handloom and powerloom weavers and on 9th February 1994 temporarily suspended export in respect of the quantity of cotton already contracted for export but not yet shipped. All these measures had a sobering effect, and the rising trend of cotton and cotton yarn prices has been largely arrested.

The Government, has received representations from the World Cotton Exporter's Association and other importers requesting for review of the suspension order. The Government is, however, for the present, keeping a close watch on the cotton situation.

Textile Research Association's Plan for modernisation of sick NTC Units

991. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textiles Research Association has submitted a plan for modernisation of the National Textile Corporation's sick units;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The Cotton Textile Research Associations have, on the advice of the Ministry of Textiles, prepared a scheme for the modernisation of 79 mills of NTC at an expenditure to Rs. 2005.67 crores. The scheme has been submitted to the Special Committee for consultation on NTC matters and would require approval of the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Duty Free Import of Cotton

992. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to permit duty-free import of cotton for handloom weavers;

(b) whether Government have directed the State Governments to take stern action against cotton hoarders;

(c) if so, whether the permission to import cotton will check the price rise of cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government has permitted duty free import of five lakh bales of cotton by the spinning mills.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It is expected that with the import of cotton, pressure on domestic availability and prices of cotton will ease.

Procurement of Cotton

993. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government agencies withdraw from the market especially from Punjab market, so as to help textile industry to procure cotton of a lower price; and

(b) if so, the quantity and price of the cotton purchased during the last three years alongwith their price, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) In the wake of spurt in cotton prices the Government has requested State Cooperative Federation and Cotton Corporation of India to slow down the purchases particularly in the Northern States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. Details of quantity purchased in Punjab by Cotton Corporation of India during the last 3 years along with prices paid are as under:—

(quantity in lakh bales)

Year	Quantity
1990-91	1,31,268
1991-92	2,07,369
1992-93	3,28,043
1993-94 (As on 23.2.94)	68,941

(Rs. per Quintal of Kapas)

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (As on 23.2.94)
SP	605	680	785	805
J-34 SG	1125/776	1430/1150	1250/900	1585/1170
SP	620	695	800	900
F-414	1210/730	1560/1170	1295/965	1760/1210

भारतीय कपास निगम द्वारा निर्यात अनुबन्ध

994. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:**
श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में भारतीय कपास निगम ही एकमात्र ऐसा संगठन है जिसे कपास निर्यात का दायित्व सौंपा गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान और चालू वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान कितने मूल्य के और कितनी मात्रा में कपास-निर्यात करने के अनुबन्धों पर निगम द्वारा विदेशों के साथ हस्ताक्षर किये गये;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उपरोक्त वर्षों के दौरान इन निर्यात अनुबन्धों से निगम को घाटा उठाना पड़ा है, यदि हां, तो घाटे की राशि कितनी है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस अवधि में कितना आर्थिक लाभ हुआ;

(ङ) उन अनुबन्धों की संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें देश में कपास-निर्यात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाए जाने के कारण क्रियान्वित नहीं किया जा रहा है और इसमें अन्तर्ग्रस्त कपास की मात्रा कितनी है;

(च) क्या सरकार ने इन अनुबन्धों के गैर-क्रियान्वयन के कारण हुए लाभ अथवा हानि का मूल्यांकन किया है; और

(छ) क्या यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) और (ख) कपास के निर्यात की अनुमति विशिष्ट सरकारी एजेंसियों के माध्यम से दी जाती है जैसे कि भारतीय कपास निगम, भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कृषि सहकारी विपणन परिसंघ (नेफेड), कपास उपजाने वाले राज्यों में राज्य स्तरीय शीर्ष परिसंघ तथा निजी व्यापार क्षेत्र। वर्ष 1992-93 के कपास मौसम तथा चालू मौसम के दौरान निगम द्वारा कपास के निर्यात के लिए विदेशों